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CODE
AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

I'VE DREAMED
OF THIS MOMENT
FOR YEARS,
SPIDER-MAN!

NOW-- AT LAST--
**J. JONAH
JAMESON IS
TRIUMPHANT!**



SCOTTIE *A Cracker Jack® story*

SCOTTIE, THE SCORE IS TIED, TIME HAS RUN OUT, BUT YOU'VE GOT TWO FOUL SHOTS. SHOW 'EM YOUR STUFF.

GULP... HERE GOES.

GOSH, I'LL TRY COACH.

OH NO... I MISSED.

BONK!

ONE MORE CHANCE SCOTTIE, YOU CAN DO IT--

YOU'RE A CRACKER JACK!

WHEN YOU'RE REALLY GOOD--THEY CALL YOU CRACKER JACK

YEA, SCOTTIE!

WE'RE THE CHAMPS!

WHAT A CRACKER JACK!

100% NATURAL
no additives
no preservatives

Cracker Jack

Crunchy caramel-coated popcorn and peanuts and a secret toy surprise!

Cracker Jack

Toy Surprise INSIDE!

BORDEN

I AM THE WATCHER... AND MY RACE WAS OLD WHEN YOUR PLANET'S SUN WAS STILL ABORNING.

IT IS MY FATE TO OBSERVE AND RECORD EVENTS IN YOUR TINY CORNER OF THE COSMOS. MINE IS THE POWER TO SEE WHAT IS... AND WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

BUT THERE ARE WORLDS BEYOND EVEN THOSE WHICH EXIST IN THIS REALITY AND THE NEXT... WORLDS NOT OF ENERGY AND MATTER, BUT OF THOUGHT AND MIND... WORLDS WHICH EXIST ONLY IN THE IMAGINATIONS OF THE DREAMERS AND...

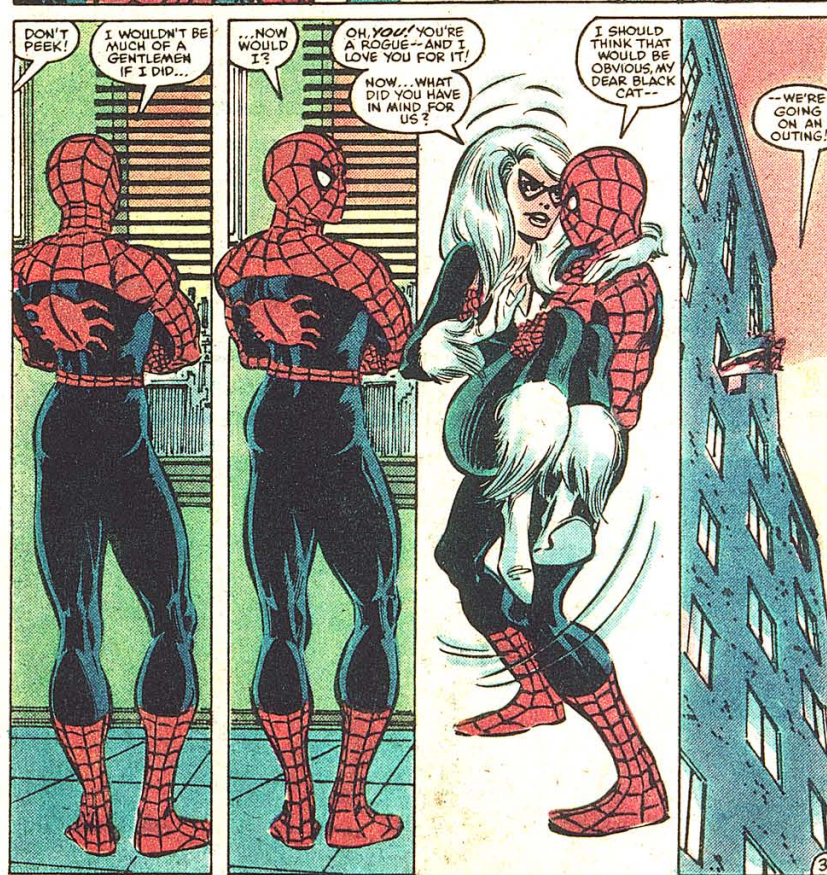
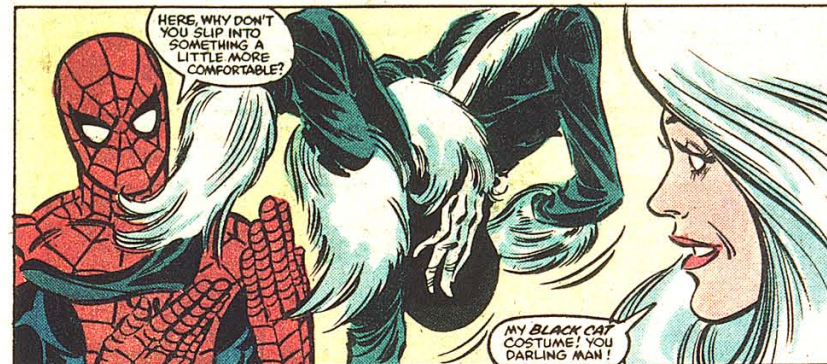
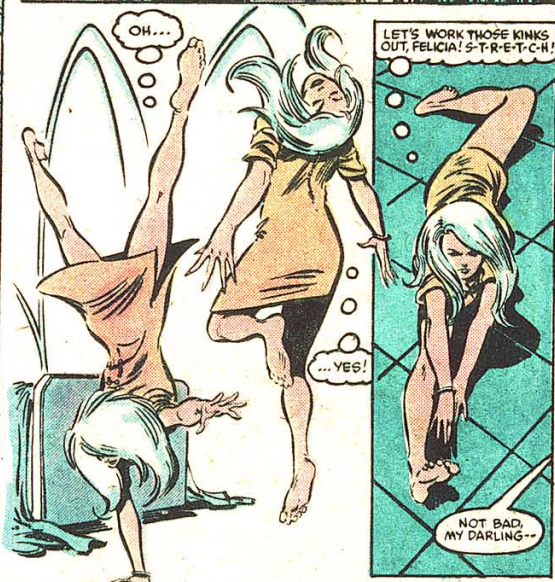
THE DAYDREAMERS!

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BOB SHAREN / TOM DEFALCO & DANNY FINGEROTH / JIM SHOOTER
COLORIST / EDITORS / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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SPEED AND STRATEGY ARE ALL YOU HAVE AND THEY JUST MIGHT BE ENOUGH!

EARTH IS DESPERATE FOR ENERGY, SOLAR FOX. YOU'RE MANKINDS ONLY HOPE! GET THE SOLAR CELLS. EARTH NEEDS TO SURVIVE. JUST WATCH OUT FOR THOSE DEADLY FIREBALLS.

THERE ARE LIKE MILLIONS OF THEM SOLAR FOX. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DOOO?

YOU TAKE EVASIVE ACTION AND START STREAKING THROUGH 26 FIELDS OF SOLAR CELLS. YOU'LL MAKE IT ON SKILL AND GUTS.

AWESOME

GNARLY!

DON'T WORRY

AND IF YOU'RE REALLY FAST YOU'LL SKIP AHEAD TO EVEN TOUGHER FIELDS!

LOOKS LIKE HOME FREE. BUT WAIT! THE SUPREME TEST AWAITS IN THE MYSTERIOUS CHALLENGE FIELDS. ... WILL YOU MAKE IT?

WILL YOU SAVE EARTH? FIND OUT GET BEHIND THE JOYSTICK OF SOLAR FOX!

WHAT A SPACE CADET!

LIKE-CAN I DRIVE?

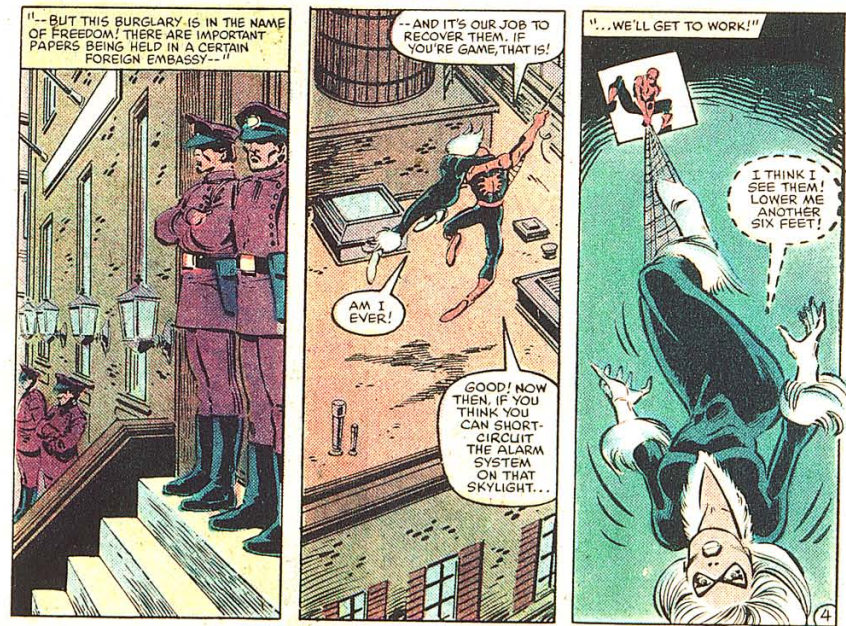
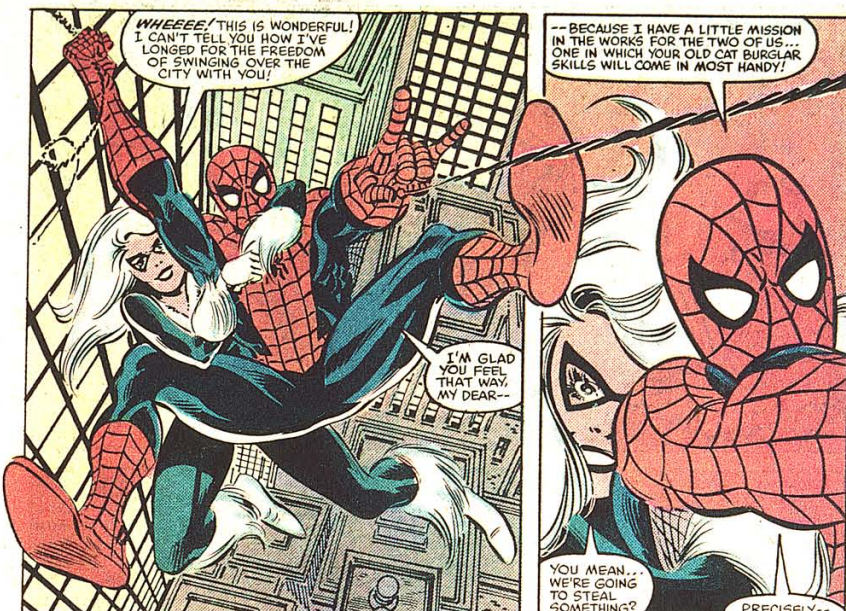
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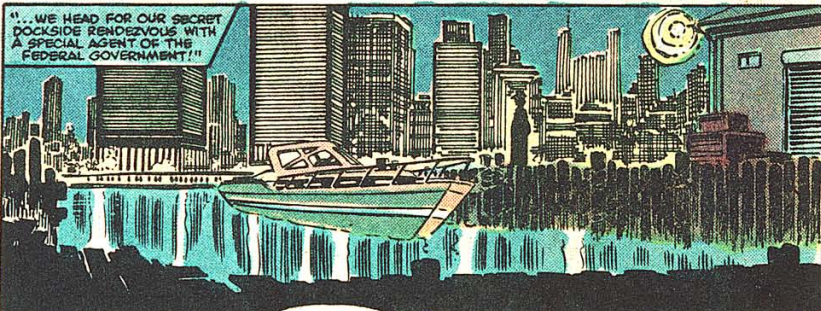


MISSION ACCOMPLISHED--



--WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?...



"...WE HEAD FOR OUR SECRET DOCKSIDE RENDEZVOUS WITH A SPECIAL AGENT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT!"



YOO-HOO! THE PASSWORD IS "SWORDFISH!"

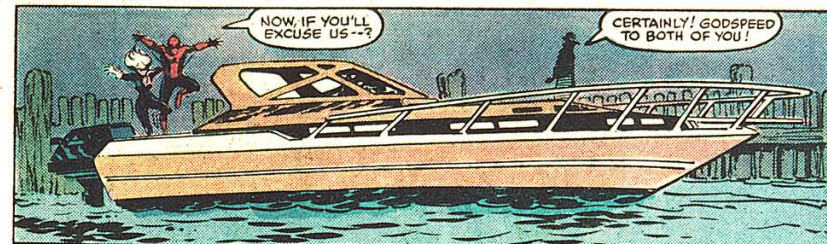
AH! SPIDER-MAN... BLACK CAT... YOU'RE RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!



HERE ARE THE SECRET DOCUMENTS, AGENT PHELPS!

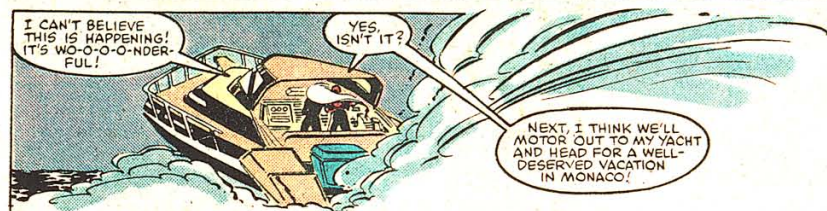
I KNOW WE CAN NEVER FULLY REPAY YOU FOR THIS-- BUT PLEASE ACCEPT THIS TOKEN PAYMENT OF \$500,000, ON BEHALF OF A GRATEFUL NATION!

BUT OF COURSE! YOU'RE TOO KIND!



NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US--?

CERTAINLY! GODSPEED TO BOTH OF YOU!



I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING! IT'S WO-O-O-O-NDERFUL!

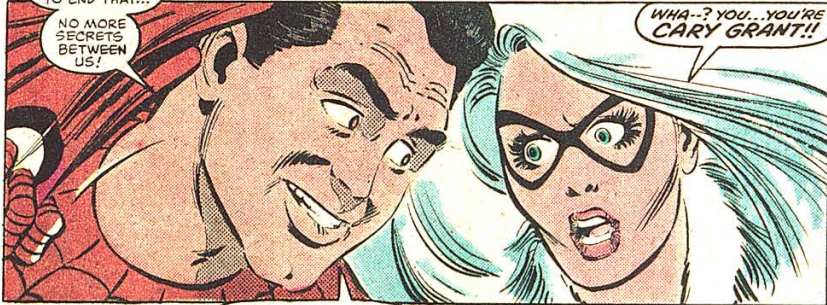
YES, ISN'T IT?

NEXT, I THINK WE'LL MOTOR OUT TO MY YACHT AND HEAD FOR A WELL-DESERVED VACATION IN MONACO!



A YACHT?! YOU DEVIL, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A YACHT!

THERE ARE A GREAT MANY THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME, MY DEAR! BUT I THINK IT'S TIME TO END THAT...



NO MORE SECRETS BETWEEN US!

WHA--? YOU... YOU'RE CARY GRANT!!

WHO ELSE, MY DEAR? AFTER ALL... IT TAKES A THIEF TO CATCH A THIEF!

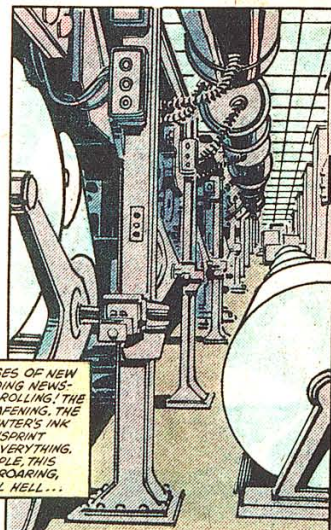
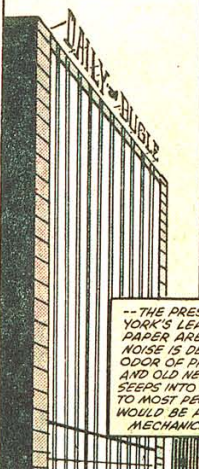


THE END

MISS HARDY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING--



SEVERAL BLOCKS DOWNTOWN, IN THE SUB-BASEMENTS OF A SLEEK 46-STORY BUILDING--



...BUT FOR ONE MAN, THIS IS HEAVEN!



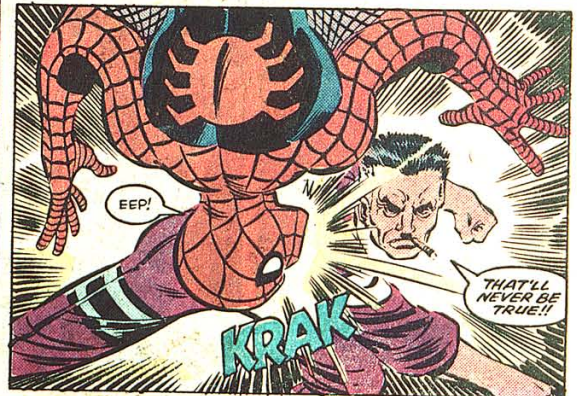
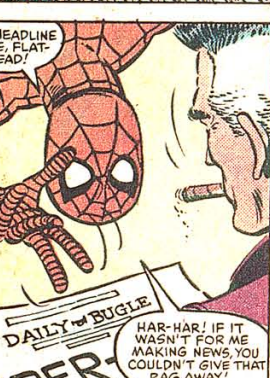
J. JONAH JAMESON...JOURNALIST, PUBLISHER, SELF-MADE MAN. THE DAILY BUGLE IS HIS BABY. FOR MANY YEARS IT WAS THE ONLY LOVE IN HIS LIFE.

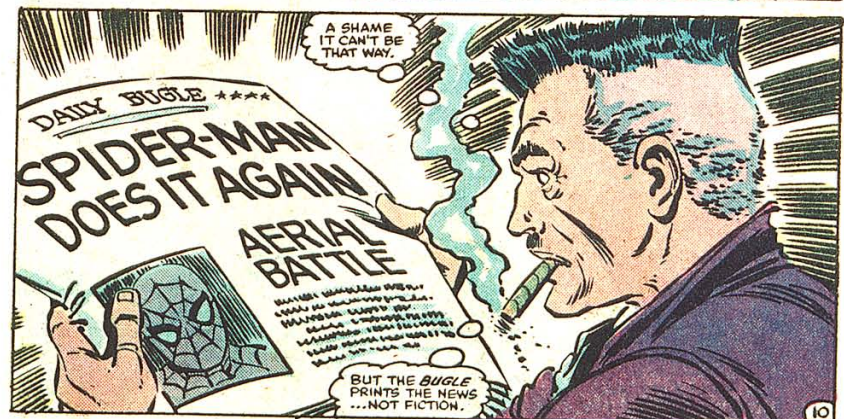
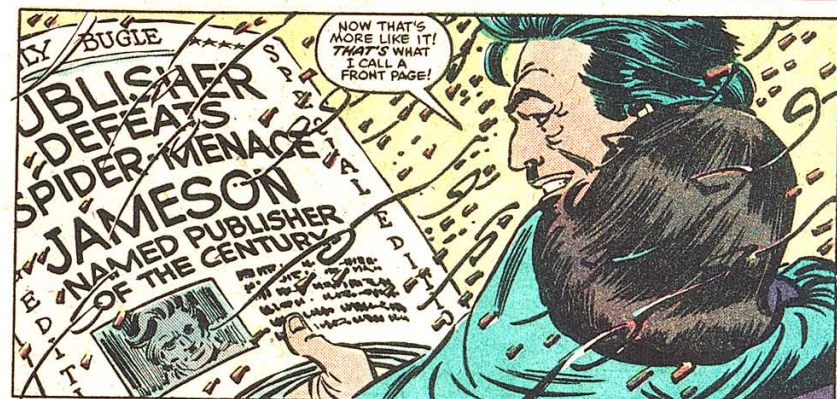
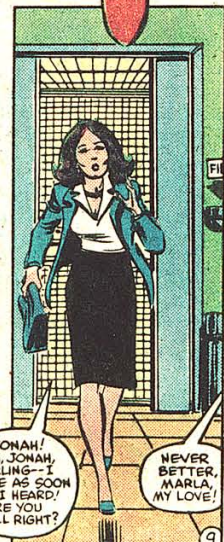


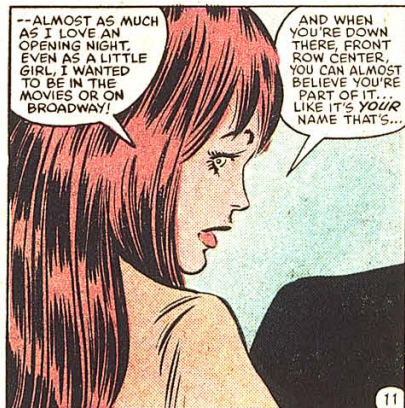
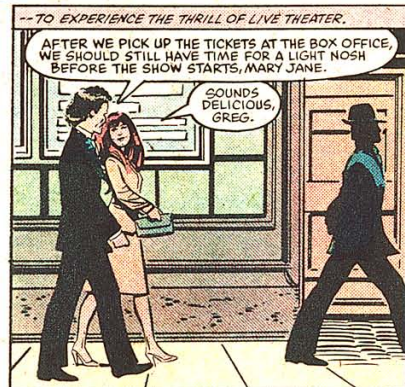
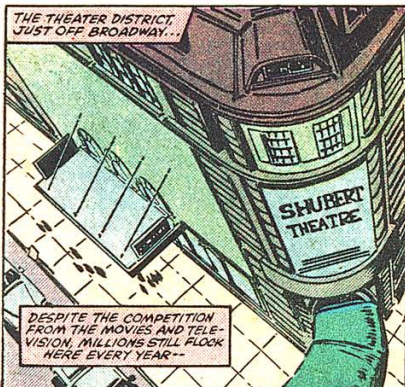
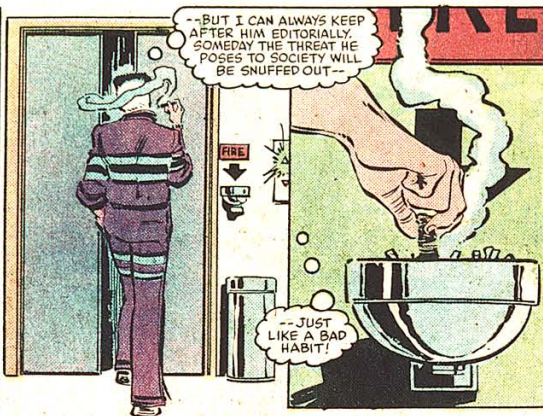
HE LIVES TO WATCH ITS PRESSES RUM!



CARE FOR A COPY OF THE EVENING EDITION, SIR? HOT OFF THE PRESS!







UNSCRAMBLE THE FUN AND DISCOVER WHY EVERYONE'S SCRAMBLING FOR NEW PINK LEMONADE BUBBLE YUM.®

Here's a game that's as much fun to play as Bubble Yum is to chew! Just unscramble these six mixed-up words. One letter to each square. (Answers below.)

FOST

□ □ □ □

SOTHOM

□ □ □ □ □ □

IYUJC

□ □ □ □ □

MYMYU

□ □ □ □ □

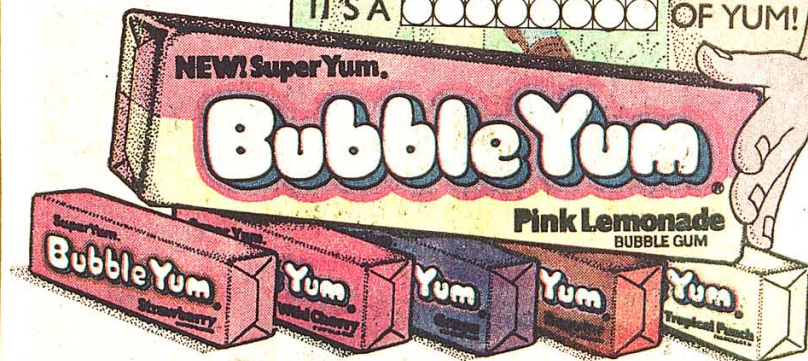
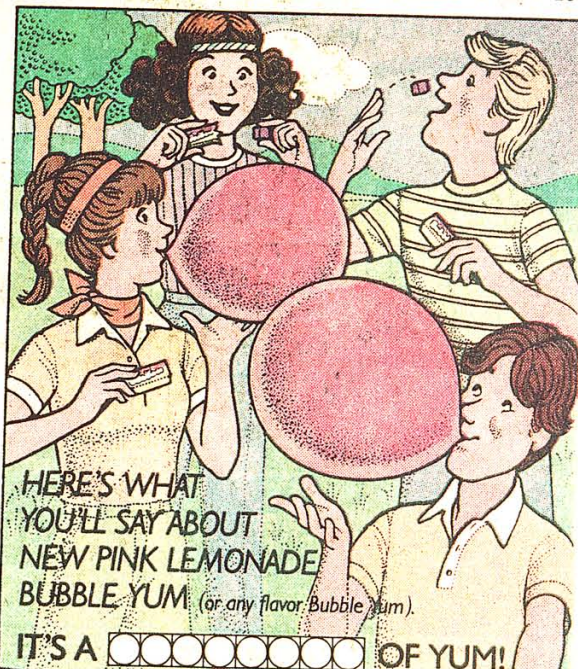
NIPK

□ □ □ □

LUBBESB

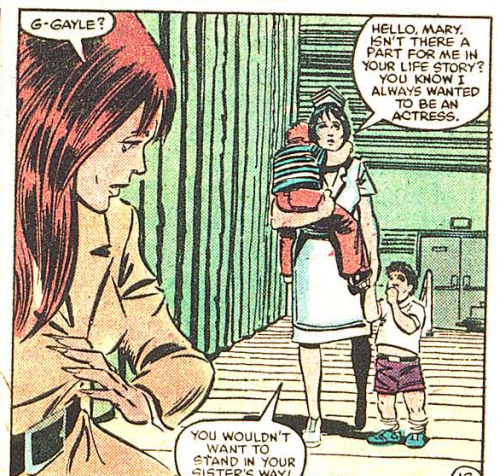
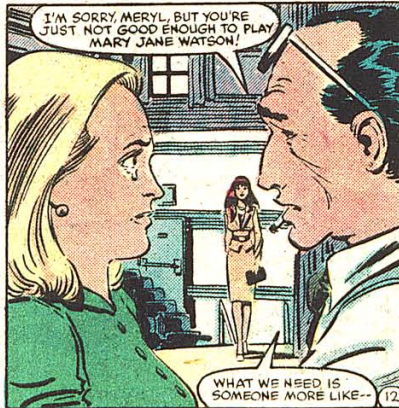
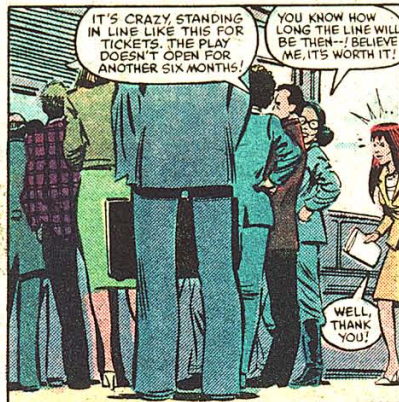
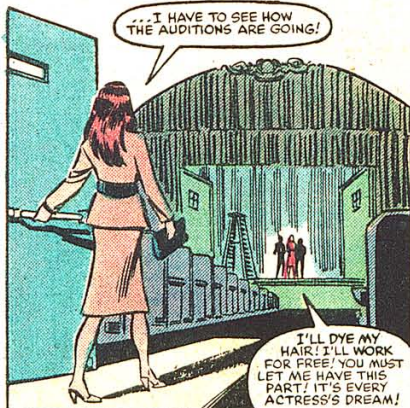
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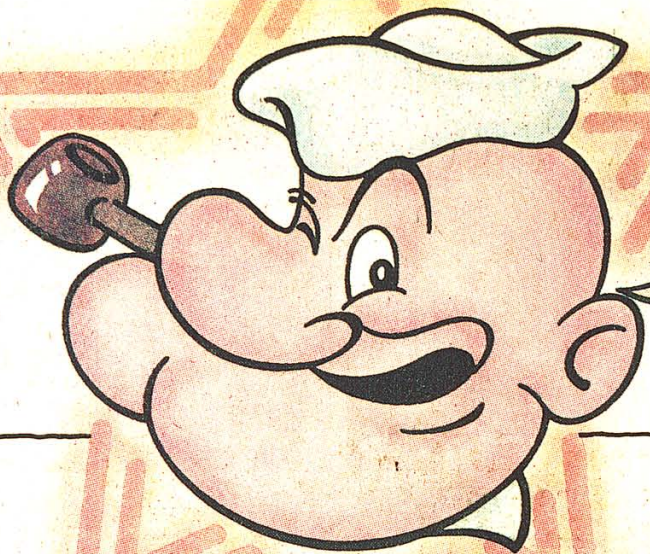
Now unscramble the circled letters to discover the surprise word in this Bubble Yum cartoon.



ANSWERS: SOFT, SMOOTH, JUICY, YUMMY, PINK, BUBBLES. SURPRISE WORD: IT'S A MOUTHFUL OF YUM!

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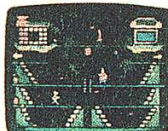
Popeye
The Sailor Man

You thinks it's all fun and games bein the woild's most famousk sailor? Then, I suggests you tries it yerself.

You try makin points with Olive Oyl, that fickle, damanding, stringbean of a dame. Likes you got nothin better to do than runnin around tryin to catch her hearts and notes. You try bein

Ya gotsta capture Olives hearts. Or else.

chased around by that fat swab Brutusk, with-out hardly a chance to catch yer breath. And I'll tells ya, that big blubber ball ain't as slow or as dumb as he looks. You try doin all that whilst yer gettin pelted with bottles



As soon as ya gets yer spinach, they all runs away.



Ya gotsta punch out these bottles before they punch you out. (I hopes they're non-return).

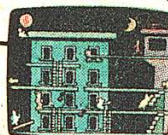
from behind by that discustipatin Sea Hag. She ain't no lady, that's fer sure.

And you try fightin off the vultures whilst Olive screams for H-E-L-P.

And you try to keep from gettin killed by them bouncin skulls.



YA CAN'T BE WIMPY IF YA WANTS TA PLAY POPEYE.



Olive drops notes whilst you runs around tryin to make points.



I doesn't know where they comes from, but I doesn't like 'em one bit. And woist of all, whilst you're doing all this, they keeps movin the spinach around so's you can never find it when you needs it. Blow me down, it ain't hardly fair.

I'll tell ya, ya gotsta be some kinda sailor to play Popeye. You gotsta be fast.

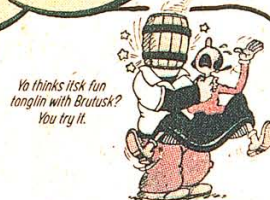
And ya

Here, boidie. I'll blasticate ya.



gotsta thrive under pressure. Cuz, me home video game is just like the hit arcade game by Nintendo... With three screens of non-stop action and incredulous graphics.

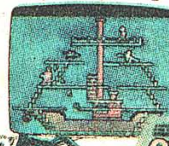
So's if it's a challenge yer lookin for, and ya thinks ya gots what it takes, why be messin around with them other



Ya thinks it'sk fun tanglein with Brutusk? You try it.

silly games. Do what I does every day. Play Popeye from Parker Brothers.

Just one piece of advice. I doesn't suggest ya tries it if ya eats yer spinach in a quiche.



Screen 3 is the most dangerousk of them all.



PARKER BROTHERS



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Popeye is available for Atari 2600, Intellivision, Atari 5200 and ColecoVision Systems;
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STAND IN YOUR SISTER'S WAY...

...YOUR SISTER'S WAY...

...SISTER'S WAY...



MARY JANE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

HUH? OH! SURE! I GUESS I WAS JUST DAYDREAMING. WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE SAYING?

I SAID YOU'RE STANDING IN THE SISTER'S WAY!



WHAT?! OH, I... I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.

THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.



ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FEELING OKAY? I COULD CHANGE OUR RESERVATIONS--!

AND MISS OPENING NIGHTS NOT ON YOUR LIFE!

WELL, OKAY... BUT DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!

ME? SCARE YOU? HOW?



YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE! YOU WERE SO PALE, I THOUGHT YOU'D SEEN A GHOST OR SOMETHING!

DON'T BE SILLY! THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS! LIKE MY AUNT ANNA ALWAYS SAYS, "YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE DEAD, CHILD..."

"...ONLY FROM THE LIVING."

14

FARTHER UPTOWN... AT 890 FIFTH AVENUE SITS A THREE STORY MANSON WHICH IS HEAD-QUARTERS AND REFUGE FOR THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE KNOWN AS THE AVENGERS!



I JUST DON'T KNOW.

IT IS A SUPER-TEAM WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE THE SERVICES OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

NOT YET.*



*TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SPIDER-MAN'S AVENGERS AMBITIONS CHECK OUT AVENGERS #236 AND 237... NOW ON SALE!

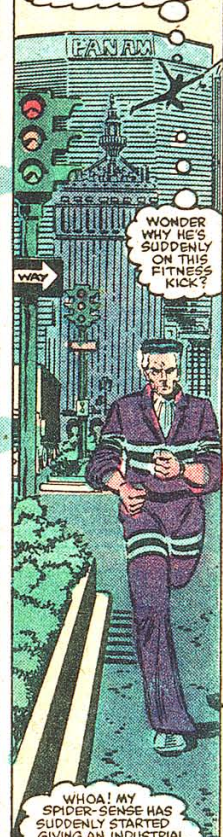
THERE SEEM TO BE AS MANY DRAW-BACKS TO BEING AN AVENGER AS THERE ARE ADVANTAGES.

AND I NEVER WAS MUCH OF A TEAM PLAYER.



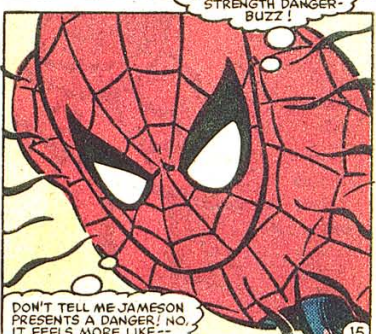
BUT IF I REALLY FOUGHT TO BECOME AN AVENGER, I COULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE FINANCIALLY... AND EVEN PEOPLE LIKE JONAH JAMESON WOULD HAVE TO GIVE ME A LITTLE RESPECT!

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL... THERE'S OL' J.J.J. JOGGING UP PARK AVENUE.



WONDER WHY HE'S SUDDENLY ON THIS FITNESS KICK?

WHOA! MY SPIDER-SENSE HAS SUDDENLY STARTED GIVING AN INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH DANGER-BUZZ!



DON'T TELL ME JAMESON PRESENTS A DANGER! NO, IT FEELS MORE LIKE--

15

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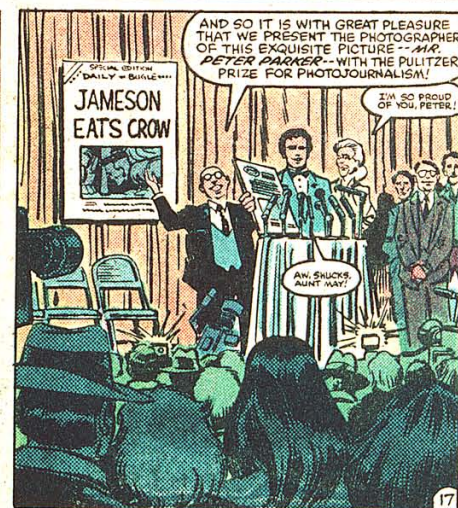
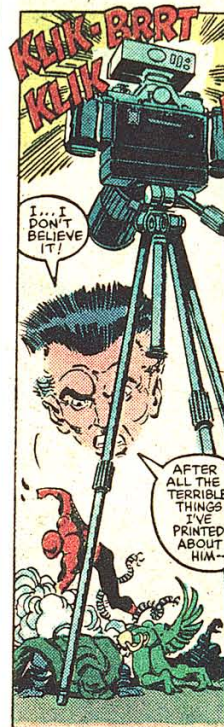
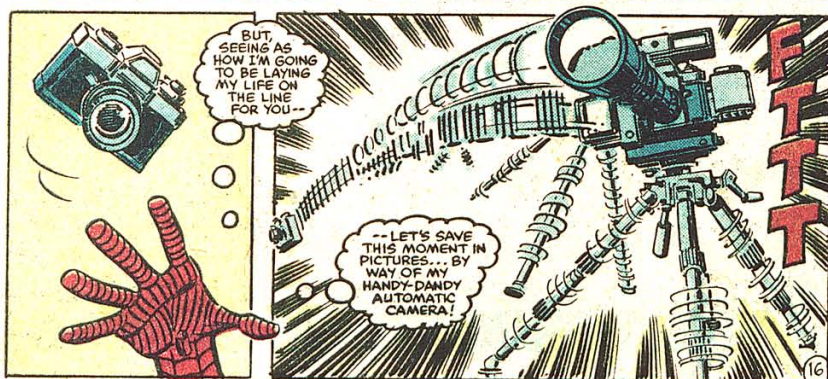
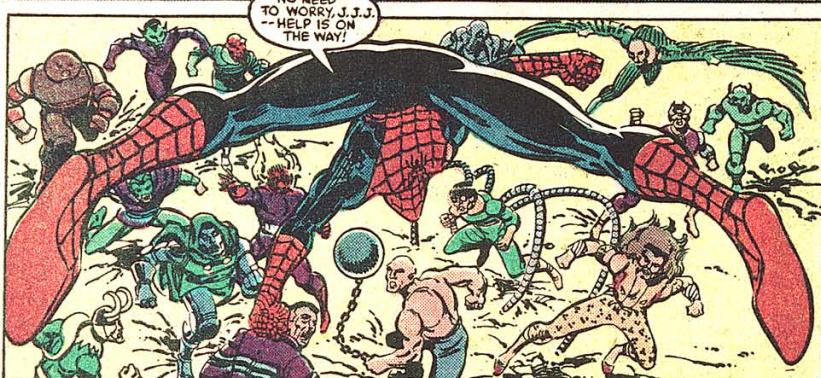
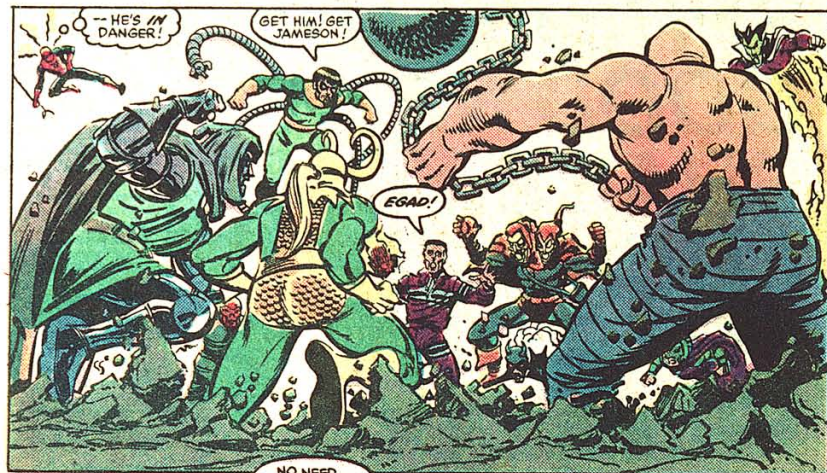
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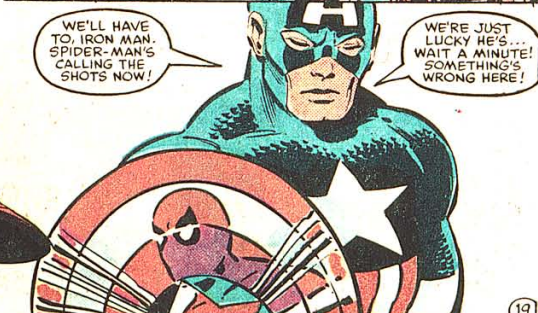
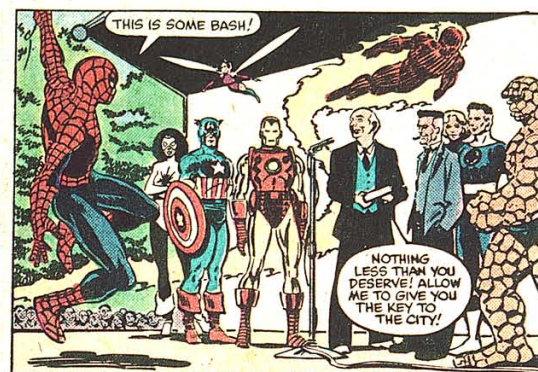
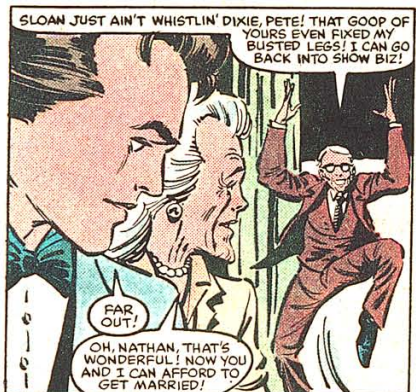
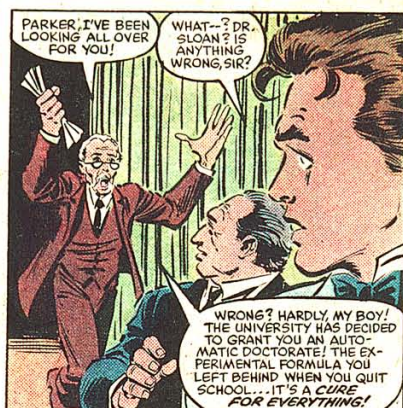
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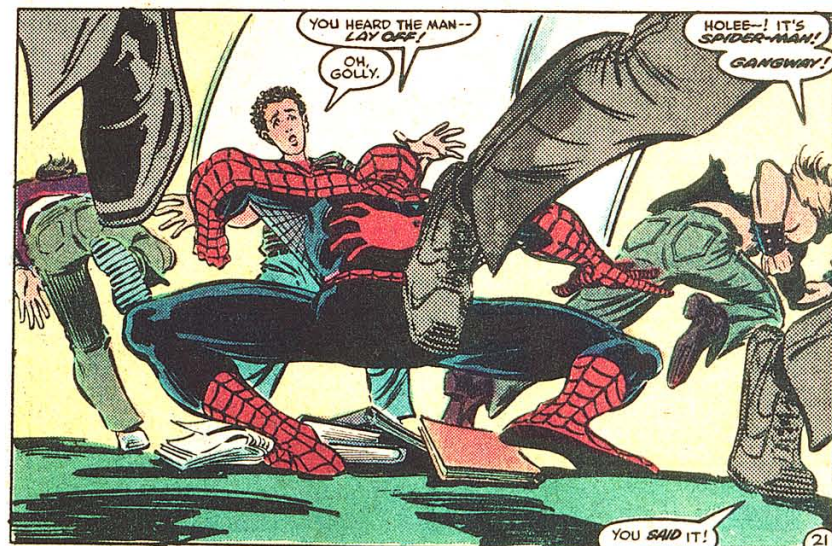
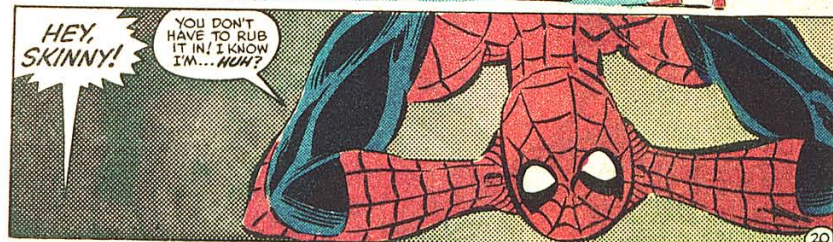
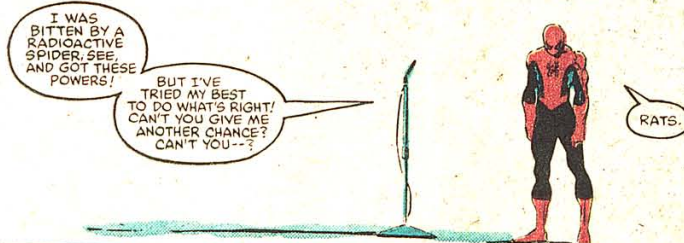
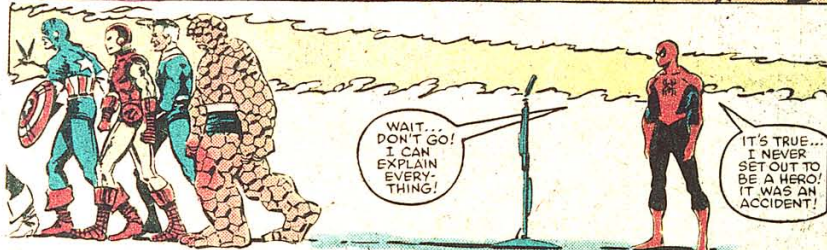
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Bulpen Bulletins

BUENOS DIAS!

Guess who was a guest of honor at the 3rd Annual *Salon del Comic y la Ilustración*, Barcelona, Spain's huge, international comics convention? ¡Sí, yo! Yes, me!

Hundreds of comics professionals and thousands upon thousands of fans turned out. What a show!

Representatives of dozens of comics publishers from around the world showed up there, too. Because many of them publish translated editions of Marvel Comics, our work is known almost everywhere, and I was pleased to discover that Marvel and the Marvel creative crew are held in very high regard overseas. As Editor in Chief of Marvel, I was very warmly received and treated with a great deal of respect at the fair. I felt very proud and extremely honored!

In Spain, many Marvel titles are published by Editorial Forum, a very prestigious publishing house — and they do a terrific job with our stuff (as well as their own). My counterpart at Forum, their Editor in Chief, is a very knowledgeable, skilled and professional gentleman named Antonio Martín, with whom I spoke several times. I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly declare Antonio and his crew Honorary Bulpeners!

HOME AGAIN

For about thirty seconds, then it was off to Tulsa, Oklahoma to appear at *Tulsa Con 83*, hosted by the Tulsa Believers in Comics Fandom. That, my friends, is one terrific group of people, and they throw an outstanding convention. If you're interested in joining a great, active, downright fun comics club, or if you'd like info on their next event, write to the club president at this address:

Larry Thomas
3836 East 21st
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114

Oh, and by the way, Tulsa is the hometown of *EPIC Illustrated Magazine* Editorial Director, Archie Goodwin. He would have pouted all day if I hadn't mentioned that.

HOME AGAIN AGAIN!

For a whole couple of weeks this time. You know, there's something funny going on around this place. As you may have heard, me and all of the Marvel editors are going away to conventions during the month of August. That means that all of the comics which go on sale in September, bearing a January cover date, will be handled entirely by the seconds-in-command — the assistant editors. So, around here, the month of the September-on-sale-January-cover-date issues has become known as Assistant Editors' Month.

Now, those guys could, and probably should just caretake the books for that one month, but rumor has it that they've planned a whole bunch of... let's say *unusual* stuff. They're trying to, in one month, revolutionize comics.

Apparently they've enlisted the cooperation of the artists and writers because there are a lot of very secret, closed-door meetings going on around here lately, and nobody, but nobody is letting on to the editors — or me — what's planned for those January cover-date issues.

I'm not kidding. Assistant Editors' Month was an amusing notion, and we've all had some laughs talking about it, but I think it may be getting a little out of hand. I'm genuinely concerned about this, and I may have to put my foot down and put a stop to it. What do you think? What would you do?

Just for your info, here's a list of the people I'm talking about:

Danny Fingeroth's assistant
BOB DENNATE
Amazing Spider-Man
Peter Parker
Marvel Team-Up
X-23

Bob Budiansky's assistant
MIKE HIGGINS
Fantastic Four
Daredevil
Return of the Jedi
X-23

Mark Gruenwald's assistant
MIKE CARLIN
Avengers
Iron Man
Thor
Captain America

Ralph Macchio's assistant
BOB HARRAS
Dazzler
US 1
Microns
ROM
Crystar

Denny O'Neil's assistant
LINDA GRANT
Alpha Flight
Power Man Iron Fist
G.I. Joe
Moon Knight

Carl Poff's assistant
ANN NOCENTI
Hulk
Defenders
Doctor Strange
Fanfare
The Thing

Larry Hama's assistant
JIM OWSLEY
Conan
King Conan
Savage Sword

Louise Jones's assistant
ELIOT BROWN
X-Men
New Mutants
Star Wars
Indiana Jones

Those are the potential perpetrators — some of them you may know a little about from seeing a bit of their published writing, art, lettering, etc. — others are strictly unknown quantities to you, since all their work has been behind the scenes. Tell me, would you haul the lot of them up short and squelch their plans? Or trust them, and see what comes out in September? It may be too late already to do anything else.

Those January cover date issues may be some real one-of-a-kind collectors' items.

Anyway, stay well!

Needing
Jim Shooter

THE TYPE BOX

THOR ANNUAL #11 — Ever wonder what it's like to grow up in Asgard? It can sure be a blast, but it certainly isn't easy, especially if you happen to be the god of thunder. ALAN ZELENTZ, BOB HALL, and VINCE COLLETTA reveal the early life of the mighty Thor for the first time, from his birth to the appearance of Don Blake. Don't miss this one!

DEFENDERS #125 — A cataclysmic shake-up in the world's greatest non-team. The Defenders must disband in order to save the Earth, but is mankind ready for the new Defenders? Who are they? Well, three of 'em used to be X-Men! The rest... well, you'll have to see for yourself in this very special double-sized issue, by J.M. DeMATTEIS, DON PERLIN, and KIM DEMULDER, with an original cover painting by BILL SIEKIEWICZ.

X-MEN #175 — Is Madelyne Pryor really Jean Grey? Is she Dark Phoenix? Are you crazy enough to even consider missing this issue? It's double-sized, double excitement, and PAUL SMITH's final issue of the mag before JOHN ROMITA, JR. comes aboard. Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT. Inked by BOB WIACEK.

THE FALCON #1 (Limited Series) — The Falcon like you've never seen him, in a story like Marvel's never done before! A hard-hitting and gritty account of life on the city streets by JIM OWSLEY, PAUL SMITH, and VINCE COLLETTA.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ THE THING #5
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #200

- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #9
- ☐ DAZZLER #29
- ☐ KING CONAN #19
- ☐ RETURN OF THE JEDI #2 (Limited Series)
- ☐ THE FALCON #1 (Limited Series)
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT SPECIAL EDITION #1 — Reprinting the original Moon Knight epics, by DOUG MOENCH and BILL SIENKIEWICZ, from the Hulk Magazine.
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #246
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #287
- ☐ THOR #337
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #11
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #34
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #55
- ☐ CRYSTAR #4
- ☐ HAWKEYE #3 (Limited Series)
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #289
- ☐ AVENGERS #237
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #152
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #157 — Reprinting Amazing Spider-Man #19 by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, "Spidey Strikes Back!"

- ☐ X-MEN #175
- ☐ ROM #48
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #99
- ☐ G.I. JOE #17
- ☐ CLOAK & DAGGER #2 (Limited Series)
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #260
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #135 — Spider-Man and Kitty Pryde
- ☐ IRON MAN #176
- ☐ DEFENDERS #125

- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #84
- ☐ STAR WARS #77
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #4
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #11
- ☐ MARVEL TAILS #1 — Funny animals — Marvel style! Featuring the origin of the Hulk-Bunny! By TOM DeFALCO, MARK ARMSTRONG, and JOE COLLETTA.
- ☐ KRULL #1 (Limited Series) — Marvel's adaptation of the Columbia Pictures summertime smash space fantasy! By DAVID MICHELINIE and BRET BLEVINS. Inks by VINCE COLLETTA.

MARVEL ANNUALS

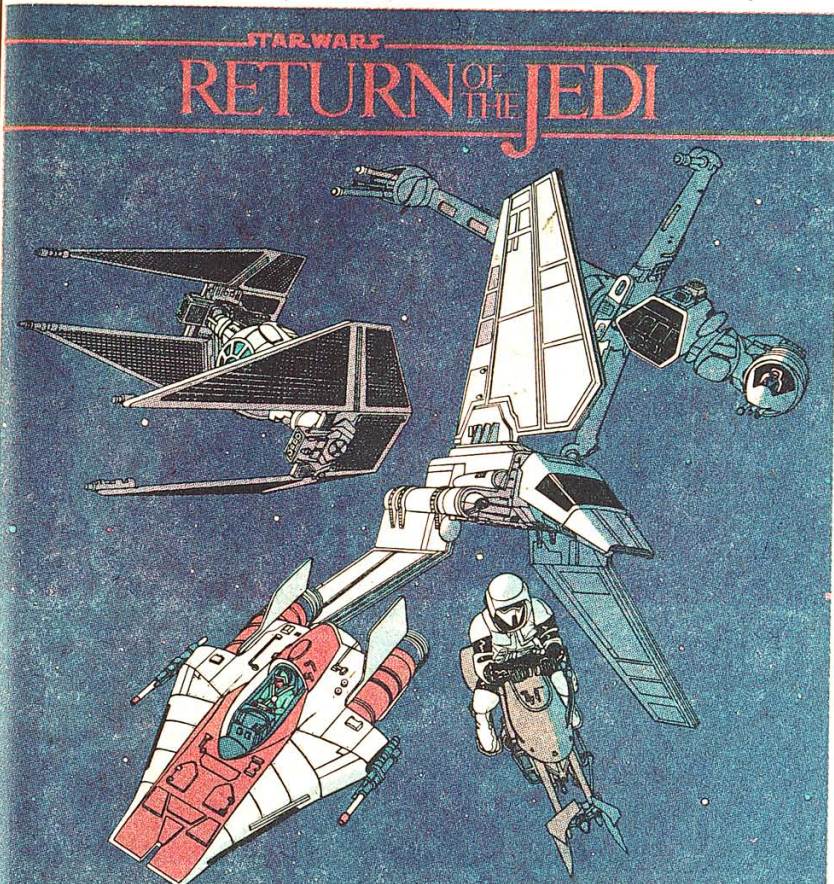
- ☐ IRON MAN ANNUAL #6 — Iron Man reduced to a pawn in the struggle between the Eternals and the Deviants.
- ☐ THOR ANNUAL #11 — For the first time in one comic: the story of Thor's life, from birth to the arrival of Don Blake.

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ SAVAGE WORD OF CONAN #93
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #8
- ☐ BLIP #8
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #11

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ EPIC ILLUSTRATED #20
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HERE YOU GO, SQUIRT! DON'T LET 'EM GET TO YOU! READING'S ONE OF THE MOST WONDERFUL GIFTS MAN'S BEEN GIVEN.



I-I KNOW. THANK YOU.



DON'T MENTION IT. JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET SO LOST IN THOSE BOOKS THAT YOU FORGET ABOUT THE REAL WORLD!



TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!

THWIP!

YOU, TOO, SPIDER-MAN!



GEE... SPIDER-MAN! AND HE TALKED TO ME, TO ME!
LOOK AT HIM GO-- SWINGING OVER THE ROOFTOPS EASIER THAN I CROSS THE STREET! BOY, I WISH I COULD BE LIKE HIM!

AW, WHO AM I KIDDING? I COULD NEVER BE LIKE SPIDER-MAN. BUT WHAT THE HECK--



--I CAN DREAM, CAN'T I?

THE END

THE SPIDER'S WEB

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DENAYALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Hi, I'm Danny Fingeroth and I've been introducing myself in all the other Spider-Man titles and, boy, am I tired of it! But I'm not tired of the web-slinger, that's for sure. I'm going to be editing Spidey's titles (plus KA-ZAR THE SAV-AGE) now that Tom DeFalco's been promoted to Executive Editor, and I'm gonna do my best to make sure they stay as good as Tom and his crew made 'em. That's it. I'm gonna shut up now. You say something...

Dear Roger, John and Frank:
I really liked AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #241. The Cheshire Cat-like cover was great. How about more of the same from John Romita Jr. and Terry Austin? And the coloring really topped the whole thing off.
John and Frank's use of shadow on Spider-Man's costume was much appreciated. This issue there is often more black than blue in the costume, and I think it looks great! The June issues of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN and MARVEL TEAM-UP also showed a darker costume. Is this the subtle change which Tom DeFalco mentioned in MARVEL AGE #2?
Roger Stern is both an excellent writer and -- apparently -- an Amazing Spider-Fan. The man who brought Spider-Man back to his old high school and the General Technologies Labs, where it all began, now discloses the origin of the Vulture and returns us to almost-forgotten locales such as the Vulture's Staten Island farm. This attention to Spider-Man's past gives the reader something else to look for that is found in few other titles. This is a major reason why AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is on my must-buy list.
Doug Buseck
Culver City, CA 90230

You did indeed pick up on the new change in Spider-Man's attire, Doug... or perhaps we should say, old change. Ya see, Spider-Man's costume started out as red and black with blue highlights... but somehow, over the years, the black areas got smaller and smaller until the Spider-suit was red and blue. Well, with the issues you mentioned, we finally decided it was time to get back to basics. We think it's a bold, dramatic look, and it's nice to see that you agree. How do the rest of you like it?
And as long as we're soliciting opinions, how'dja like this issue's story? Our creative crew had the time of their lives working on it. It was a gamble... but we think it paid off! After all, how else could you get to see ol' JJJ givin' Spidey's webbed feet a smooch? But we've got to know how you liked our off-beat offering. Tell us. Fast.

Dear Marvel,
After finishing AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #241, I realized that something was very wrong... not just in this issue, but in the past four or five. Peter Parker's life is just going too well. One of the first things that I liked about the ol' Wall-crawler was that he had problems, just like everybody else. What happened to his money problems, his hassles with J. Jonah Jameson, his aunt's sudden illnesses?
I know this sounds strange, but mess up

his life a little. Make an embarrassing situation, put JJJ on an anti-Spider-Man rampage, or have Pete's sweet Aunt May get kidnapped.
Why don't you give away Spider-Man's identity? The whole world doesn't have to know... just one or two people.
By the way -- you've probably heard this a million times, but let's make it a million-and-one -- the creative crew on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is great.

Dary Moynihan
Mercer Island, WA 98040
Wow! We're glad you threw in the last sentence, Dary! For a minute there, you had us thinking you didn't like anything we've done!
But as for Pete's life going too well... hey, are you pulling our legs? In the four or five issues prior to #241, Pete's had to face the Hobgoblin, a fellow he's at least partially responsible for... and a gent who might know his secret identity. He's had to face both the Owl and Dr. Octopus, and he's worried himself silly over whether or not the Black Cat would pull through. Since then, he's been caught up unwillingly in a lover's triangle with Lance Bannon and Amy Powell, and come to the hard decision that he had to quit school. If that's your idea of the good life, we hate to think of what you'd consider a bad day!
Sheesh! Give poor Pete a break, will ya?

Dear Guys,
The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has been my favorite comic since the first time I read it, but there's still a lot I'd like to know about Spider-Man. How much can he lift? How high can he jump? What's his endurance like?
Alfred Lyon
San Jose, CA 95125
Hey, Al, if it's spider-data you want, then you need look no further than issue #10 of THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, still on sale! Not only does said issue tell you all you'd ever want to know about May Parker's favorite nephew, but it gives the low-down on everything from S.H.I.E.L.D. to the Sub-Mariner. Watch for it!

Dear Marvel,
You guys are without equal when it comes to original, out-of-the-ordinary, and yet believable origins for your heroes and villains. Even so, the Vulture's past had been left more or less a mystery... until issue #241. (That long-term mystery, in itself, was original and out-of-the-ordinary.)
In the Beginning... gave a very believable account of how and why the origin of the Vulture had been so long shrouded in mystery. The animosity Vulture had for Bestman was his to settle, and his alone. He wasn't concerned with trying to broadcast his story to the world.
Another aspect of the story I found pleasing was the fact that the Vulture didn't attempt to alibi or excuse his behavior. He wanted revenge on Bestman for cheating him, but didn't blame Bestman for making him a criminal. That was his own decision. It looks like Bestman will finally see justice -- which I'm sure the Vulture will consider a vic-

tory of sorts -- but the Vulture will continue to live, as he has, the life of a super-criminal.
Rod Wahowske
Emmett, MT 48022

Dear John and Terry:
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #241 -- what a cover!

Ben Varkentine
Mountain View, CA 94040
And now, once again, for the possible answers to the question that's on the lips of all America... "Who is the Hobgoblin?"

Dear Spider-Men:
I've come up with a lot of possibilities for the secret identity of Hobgoblin:
1) Dr. Jonas Harrow
2) J. Jonah Jameson
3) Another clone of Prof. Warren (The Jackal)
4) Mysterio
5) Danny Berkhart (the ersatz Mysterio from issue #s 141 and 142)
6) The fella with no name from issue #153
7) The Tinkerer
8) Bart Hamilton
9) The Chameleon
10) Jackson Weele
11) Mesmero

David Torisello
South Orange, NJ 07079
After reading and re-reading recent issues of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, I have come to the startling conclusion that Harry Osborn is the Hobgoblin.

Mike Udel
Dallas, TX 75229
I have figured out who the Hobgoblin is. His name... Felipe Picaro (from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #16).

Mark Gangi
Milltown, NJ 08850
Professor Stromm...

Jason Crom
Northwood, IA 50459
Hobgoblin is Steve Ditko.

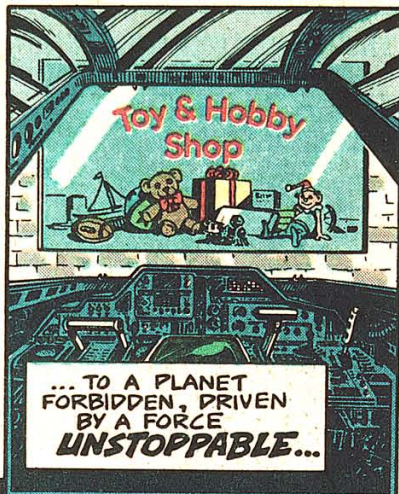
Al Yuen
San Francisco, CA
And the guesses just keep on coming! Are any of them right? Only time and destiny will tell. (But, in all fairness, we can disqualify one of those guesses. We happen to have seen Steve Ditko talking with Al Milgrim in the Bullpen, the last time the Hobgoblin went into action. So that eliminates Steve... If it was Steve and not a cleverly disguised double! Gee, you don't suppose -- ?)

NEXT ISSUE: Spider-Man won't have any time for daydreaming next month as his search for the Hobgoblin continues, but all he finds are... "Interruptions!" How so? Well, for one thing, our old buddy Noreen Norton is finally out of the hospital and out on the streets... with a very mysterious trombone case! There's something bizarre bounding across the rooftops of Brooklyn! And, hey, what is it about Mary Jane Watson's past? Curious? Then check out AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #247, on sale in just thirty days. You'll be glad you did!
-- Danny Fingeroth

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